

# Why Is It Crucial To Test For Penicillin Allergy During Pregnancy?

A penicillin allergy test determines a person's risk of developing allergic reactions to the penicillin group of antibiotics.

## Why is the test required during pregnancy?

- A pregnant woman may require antibiotics for bacterial infections that may threaten maternal and fetal safety.
- Most of the pregnancy-safe antibiotics belong to the penicillin group.



## Validity of self-reported penicillin allergy by pregnant women

- About 8 to 13% of pregnant women report penicillin allergy, but when tested, the majority do not exhibit a positive reaction.
- Pre-existing penicillin allergy may decrease or disappear after about ten years.

## Advantages of ruling out penicillin allergy during pregnancy

- Broad-spectrum antibiotics, used as alternatives to penicillin, increase the risk of developing antibiotic resistance in the future.
- Alternatives are less effective in preventing infections after a C-section delivery.
- Ensuring the absence of hypersensitivity reactions will eliminate the need to use alternatives.



## References:

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2. Time Has Come for Routine Penicillin Allergy Testing in Obstetrics; National Center for Biotechnology Information
3. Outpatient Penicillin Allergy Testing in Pregnant Women Who Report an Allergy; National Center for Biotechnology Information
4. Penicillin Allergy Skin Testing in the Inpatient Setting; National Center for Biotechnology Information



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